

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, it gives me no pleasure to say this, but this administration is actively doing terrible things for women and their families. They have rolled back protections for workers. They have made it easier for companies to pollute the air and the water. They have cut investments in public education. They have literally taken children away from their parents and made zero effort to reunite them. They are working as hard as possible to prevent women from having access to the healthcare they need. These are not rhetorical statements. They are policies that hurt people. They are hurting moms.

The Centers for Disease Control came out with a report just this week showing that hundreds of women die every year from pregnancy-related complications and that many of these deaths are preventable. The report finds that one of the key ways to prevent these deaths is access to proper medical care. Yet this administration has made taking away people's access to healthcare a top priority. They have put legislation in to end the Affordable Care Act. They filed lawsuits to take away protections for people with preexisting conditions. They have issued regulations that allow healthcare providers to refuse to provide care to someone based on their personal beliefs and keep healthcare providers from giving their patients full and accurate information. As we all know, they have gone after Planned Parenthood—one of the leading sources of healthcare for women—with everything they have.

I remember when I first became a Member of this body, I visited a clinic in Honolulu. I remember meeting with the staff, who told me that clinic was the only source of healthcare for most of their patients. This was the one place women could go for family planning services, counseling, and breast cancer screenings.

Planned Parenthood's entire reason for being is to help families. In a single year, they cared for 2.4 million people and provided almost 10 million individual healthcare services, including 300,000 breast cancer screenings and over 200,000 well-woman exams—all in a single year. Yet a highlight of this administration's policy on women is to attack women's health and specifically Planned Parenthood.

But we know it is not just healthcare. As I said, it is workplace safety and fairness. It is investment in public education. It is clean air and clean water. These are things that all of us care about but moms in particular.

Whatever your political persuasion, everyone has a mom. Lots of people are moms or are married to a mom. This administration is inarguably bad for moms and bad for motherhood. Moms in this country deserve better.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

IRAN

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, 5 years ago, I, along with 46 of my fellow Senators, released a letter to Iran's Ayatollah letting him know that any nuclear deal he reached with President Obama wouldn't be worth the paper it was printed on unless it was ratified as a treaty by two-thirds of the U.S. Senate. We wrote: "The next president could revoke such an executive agreement with the stroke of a pen and future Congresses could modify the terms of the agreement at any time."

A lot of people were upset by this letter, but I don't really know why. All it did was state a straightforward lesson on American civics—something any ninth grader who has read our Constitution should know. Yet the Ayatollah agreed to a deal with President Obama that was not, in fact, approved by two-thirds of the Senate. In fact, it was almost rejected by three-fifths of the Senate. Just as we cautioned, not 3 years later, a new President did, in fact, revoke that deal with the stroke of a pen.

Today is the 1-year anniversary of America's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, and a lot has happened since then.

Just this morning, Iran threatened to renew its rush to the bomb, stockpiling more uranium and producing more heavy water—even threatening to enrich nuclear fuels to dangerous levels in the months ahead if the civilized world does not cave to its demands.

We know better than to cave in to the ayatollahs. The United States will remain steadfast in our maximum pressure campaign against Iran until that regime abandons its nuclear and missile program and its support for terrorism. I welcome the news that the President is announcing new sanctions on Iran's mining industry as well.

As for our European allies and partners and members of the business community abroad, I hope Iran's threats will serve as a needed wake-up call. Any attempt to invest in Iran's market under any circumstances other than Iran's complete and verifiable cessation of its full range of malign activities will be fraught with huge legal and financial risks—huge risks. Businesses shouldn't put themselves in that compromising position, and European partners shouldn't give in to Iran's high-stakes nuclear blackmail.

Of course, today's announcement is just the latest dangerous provocation by the Iranian regime. In the past year, Iran and its well-armed proxies have continued their killing spree across the Middle East—the same spree they were on before and during the Iran nuclear deal. This time, the United States has stood up to Iran rather than rewarding its evil deeds.

We designated the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps for what it is—a foreign terrorist organization—for plotting attacks around the world and arming groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the very

same groups that slaughtered innocent civilians in Israel just last weekend with no regard for the lives they purportedly represent in Gaza.

We reimposed sanctions on Iran that were waived by President Obama. We have also recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, affirming a close ally's right to defend itself against Iranian-backed aggression. These are good things. Iran is a weaker adversary today than it was a year ago when it was flush with bribe money from its nuclear deal with the Obama administration.

Not everyone sees it that way. At least six Democratic Presidential candidates have talked about reentering this outdated obsolete nuclear deal with Iran. They would give the ayatollahs and his armies sanctions relief yet again at a time when Iran's economy is on the mat, not just in recession but in borderline depression. If we were to give them sanctions relief, we know what they would do with that money. We have seen this movie before. They would use it to build ballistic missiles, to kill and maim innocent civilians, and to fuel chaos in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and further abroad.

A return to the Iran deal would be a disastrous decision, but more importantly, such a decision would be every bit as reversible as the first. When are these people going to learn? Everybody ought to keep in mind this simple fact, whether you are a politician making promises or on the campaign trail or a business leader considering major investments in Iran.

To make it abundantly clear, on the 1-year anniversary of our withdrawal from that horrific, terrible nuclear deal, I have a gift for them all. It is the first anniversary. So it is a paper gift. I have introduced a resolution with my colleagues that reaffirms the policy of the United States to never, never allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the resolution reaffirms that sanctions can only come off of Iran once it meets the basic conditions approved by Congress under existing law. Among other things, that law requires that Iran must stop supporting terrorism and dismantle its ballistic missile program before sanctions can be waived. They can't simply be waived by a President using his so-called pen and phone.

I hope this resolution clears up any confusion about where the United States stands with respect to Iran and for anyone considering investing in the Iranian market. America will continue to apply maximum pressure against the ayatollahs' regime so long as they continue their campaign of terror and violence against the United States and our allies throughout the Middle East, and we will continue to assist those allies as they fight against Iranian-backed aggression.

To the Ayatollah and all of the rulers of Iran: Happy anniversary.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

## NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, it is National Small Business Week, and in Montana, small businesses are a critical part of our life. In fact, I grew up watching my parents build a small business. They are made up of hard-working families who lift up their companies and neighborhoods, and it is what keeps our economy growing and keeps our economy strong.

In fact, when I am back home in Montana and back in my hometown of Bozeman, you might find me in the morning grabbing a cup of coffee from Cold Smoke with my sweet wife Cindy, or I might be heading over to Butte. I might be picking up a new mount from my taxidermist, Marc, who does a great job there in Butte. Or maybe it is time for dinner and grabbing a bite to eat at the Mint in Belgrade. Of course, if you are over in Billings, you have to stop and get a cinnamon roll at Stella's. If you are heading through Helena, get a great lunch there at Steve's Cafe. Or if you are up in the northwest part of the State, you might grab a beer at the Cabinet Mountain Brewery. Or there is nothing like breakfast at Syke's in Kalispell.

In fact, one of the old-time favorites in Missoula is the Thunderbird Motel. They have a great owner there, Thelma, who has been a friend for years. I still remember how excited the men and women who were stationed in Afghanistan and from our very own 495th from Kalispell were when we brought over—hand-carried over to Afghanistan—back in December, some Hi-Country beef jerky from Lincoln, MT, because for them, that Hi-Country beef jerky tasted like being back home.

These mom and pop shops of Montana tell the story of the ideals that make our Nation great. In fact, in Montana, 90 percent of our businesses are small businesses—90 percent. Montana's small business owners are hard-working Montanans. They have taken a leap of faith to pursue the dream of owning their own business.

They get up early, they roll their sleeves up, and they don't stop working until they get the job done. They are folks who put everything they have into starting a business. They are working all day, oftentimes into the night, to keep that business growing. Their voices that make our economy run in Montana are seldom heard on the national stage.

Those businesses that I mentioned earlier that I like to frequent are not household names across our country. They are well-known names back in their respective communities, but they are not on the national stage, and it is my honor to be their voice, to fight for policies that make their lives back in Montana easier.

Thankfully, under Republican leadership over the last 3 years, our country has experienced record economic growth. That is not by accident.

Since we passed tax reform, over 3½ million new jobs have been added to

this economy, and we are seeing more money in the pockets of Montanans. Wages are up. Productivity is up. The unemployment rate sits at a 50. That is a five-decades-old low of 3.6 percent. Many said that can never be done. Guess what. Under President Trump's leadership, working with this Republican Congress, they have gotten it done.

I want to make sure this economic hot streak continues because our rural communities back in Montana rely on these small businesses. That is why just last month I introduced the Main Street Tax Certainty Act, which would give these small businesses permanent tax relief. When government stands out of the way, when burdensome regulations are lifted, and when Congress finally understands that it is not government that creates growth but it is the individuals—the hard-working men and women in this country—then, there is no telling how far we can go as a nation. We have to keep this economy booming, and we must keep Montana's small businesses thriving.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from West Virginia.

## AMERICAN MINERS ACT

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today to call for immediate action on the American Miners Act. We have an obligation to the miners across America who have served our Nation by providing us with energy through our greatest advancements. They deserve to know that their pensions, which they rightfully worked for, will be funded fully, and they deserve to have accessible healthcare, which was guaranteed to them as well.

As the Senate fails to act, we continue to put our retired miners' healthcare and pension benefits in jeopardy yet again. I have been working with everyone from every angle in order to prevent our miners from losing their healthcare and benefits. But, once again, they are facing a deadline that puts their whole livelihood at risk.

This has been a long fight, and it is far from over. Everyone who has joined me in this journey understands that fighting for working people is what we were sent here to do. These retired miners are walking the halls and fighting for what is rightfully theirs. I am doing this for them. I promised them that this body will not abandon them, and I refuse to let them down.

To give you some background, the 1974 pension plan will be insolvent by 2022 if we do not act. We needed to act a year ago or so, and we haven't done it. It is a shame. Miners who receive their healthcare through companies that went bankrupt in 2018 are at risk of losing coverage in the coming months if we fail to act soon.

How did we get here? Unlike many other public and private pension plans, in 1974, the miners' pension plan was well managed and 94 percent funded prior to the crash of 2008. However, the

financial crisis hit at a time when this plan had its highest payment obligations. If the plan becomes insolvent, these beneficiaries will face benefit cuts, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation will assume billions of dollars in liabilities.

To address these issues, the American Miners Act would shore up the 1974 pension plan, which is headed for insolvency due to coal company bankruptcies and the 2008 financial crisis. It would ensure that the miners who are at risk due to 2018 coal company bankruptcies will not lose their healthcare and extend the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund tax at \$1.10 per ton of underground-mined coal and 55 cents per ton of surface-mined coal for 10 years.

West Virginia has more retired union coal miners than any other State. More than 27,000 retirees live in West Virginia alone.

I am going to read a letter to give you perspective on what we are dealing with. Richard from Morgantown, WV, said:

I am writing this letter with respect and concern to preserve our pension. My name is Richard. I live in Morgantown, West Virginia. My career as an underground coal miner lasted 35 years. I am soon to be 68 years old. Working underground all those years, the physical labor tends to take a toll on a person's body. I receive a monthly pension of \$1,466 a month from the UMWA Pension Fund. This monthly pension is used to pay utility bills, purchase groceries, and everyday necessities. I am also helping to support my five year old grandson and his mother, who doesn't earn enough for them to live on their own. You see, my daughter became addicted to prescription opioids after having serious medical problems. She has been clean for five years and is trying to rebuild her life, but we are supporting her and her son. My pension is a major source of income for my family and it would be devastating if I were to lose any of it. I can't imagine how we would survive. Our county and surrounding counties are heavily dependent on the coal miners' pension. Should we lose our pension, the economy in this area would plummet. I am also writing as a voice for those who are unable to write to you. I am asking your committee to carefully consider the bill to preserve our pensions.

I have another one from Gary from Southern West Virginia who wrote:

I have worked in the [United Mine Workers] since 1973 at Cannelton Coal. I worked about 13½ years, then had a lay-off in the early 80's, had to find work in another field, and got a job driving a school bus for 25 years. I'm retired now, but I still sub-drive for the county, was in [a] . . . bus driver association, and also drive a bus for Ace Adventure Resort. I am 74 now and still very active in the work force. I thank God for my health. I am still married to a wonderful woman, had 4 kids, 3 of them have passed away, one from cancer, one [from] allergy, my daughter died from a drug overdose. I am still paying on my daughter's funeral expenses. This retirement check that I get every month is a big help getting this bill paid, also had to pay on one of my son's funeral expenses. Since 2011 it has been very hard trying to keep your head above water. I only get \$261 a month but I am so thankful for what I get. It really helps out a lot. Please find a way so we can keep our retirement check. We will keep on praying for all you guys who are fighting for us.